

REMARKS

RESPONSE TO AMENDMENTS

The Applicant notes the Examiner's withdrawal of the previous rejections in the previous office action related to claims 1-6, 8-10, 12-15, 17-27 and 29-33.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claims 1 and 22 are object to because of informalities listed in the present Office Action. Claims 1 and 22 are amended herein according to the Examiner's suggestions.

Claims 8, 9, 29 and 30 are herein canceled.

35 USC §112

Claims 12, 13-15 and 33 are rejected as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claims 12 and 33 are herein canceled. Claim 13 is herein amended to show that the first organic intermetal dielectric layer may be replaced by an inorganic intermetal dielectric layer, as stated in the first full paragraph on page 14 of the original specification. Claims 14 and 15 are allowable by virtue of their dependency on now allowable claim 13.

Claims 5, 8, 13, 26 and 29 are rejected as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 8 and 29 are herein canceled. Claims 5, 13 and 26 are herein amended to comply with the Examiner's comments. The amendment to claim 13 renders the Examiner's rejection moot. The amendment to claims 5 and 26 insert the term "first".

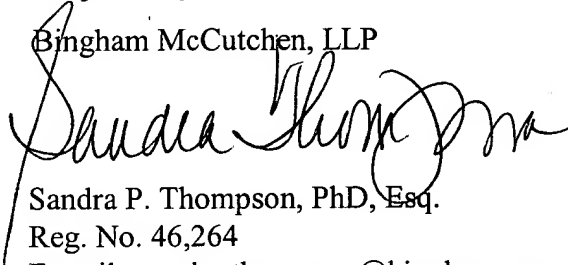
Claims 12 and 33 are herein canceled, thus rendering moot the Examiner's rejection to these two claims.

Claim 22 is herein amended to show the antecedent basis for "the line opening".

REQUEST FOR ALLOWANCE

Claims 1-6, 13-15, 17-27, 31-32 and 34-38 are pending in this application, and the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all of the claims in light of the arguments presented and allow all current and pending claims.

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Respectfully submitted,
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